

BOWER HILL NEWS



Safe Journey

JULY 2009

Never at a loss for words, I find myself sitting at the keyboard, struggling with what to say in this final newsletter cover. How do you say goodbye after over seven years of ministry? How do you summarize all the joys and sorrows of these years together? How do you say goodbye to a family that you walked beside, watching children grow together, and struggled with the sadness of saying goodbye to loved ones who have gone home to God? How do you say goodbye to sisters and brothers who have nurtured your children, offered comfort in the struggles and complexities of their lives, and prayed for you in the midst of it all? This place is so full of memories, and it is difficult to say goodbye.

In one of my favorite religious films, called *Jesus*, starring Jeremy Sisto, the characters use the phrase, "safe journey" when parting. That expression seems profound and appropriate for this occasion. To me, the words safe journey serve as a reminder of the life journey and faith journey that we all are traveling on. They stir up the image in my mind of being held in the palm of God's hand as we go our separate ways. Safe journey suggests that we have traveled together for a time and now our journeys will take different routes, but perhaps our paths will cross again some day along the road.

I have been blessed by our journey together. My heart has been touched by the many kindnesses that have been shown over the years. More than anything else, I have so appreciated the way that you have loved my children, walked for them, included them by helping them to make sandwiches and pillows, and made a point of greeting them by name and shaking their hands on Sunday morning.

As I think about our journey together, there is much that I will miss. I will miss our Christmas Dinners together and our Lenten studies and services. I will miss our mission kit Sundays, marching in the rain for Darfur, and Faith in Action pillow sewing and lunch making. I will miss our ambitious Fill the Truck adventures and Hunger Awareness Days. I will especially miss the smiles of the precious children during Children's Time, and the many adventures we have shared at Vacation Bible School traveling through time machines to Bethlehem and Magic Tree Houses to the Rainforest. I will treasure all these memories in my heart. They have been important way-stations along the journey. I hope that our journey together has touched your heart and provided you with special memories to treasure as well.

As we travel on different journeys, I wish you all safe journey, sisters and brothers, wherever your journeying takes you. May God keep us all safe in the palm of his hand.

Blessings,

Rev. Laurie

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COMMUNITY NOTES

FOODBANK STILL NEEDS YOU!



On Sunday, July 12th, we will have our regular collection for the Wallace Food Pantry. The food pantry is in particular need of pasta, dry cereal (prefer healthy varieties like Cheerios) and peanut butter.

BOOKWORMS

Bookworms meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the home of a member, for fellowship and discussion of a chosen title.



July 21 - *The Princess* by Jean Sasson
Hostess: Ann Mitchell

Aug. 18 - *The Little Toy Soldier* by Cal Wilson
Hostess: Betsy Prine

Sept. 15 - *Tracks* by Louise Erdrich
Hostess: Lee Ferrero

DEACON UPDATE

The Board of Deacons now has 12 members (formerly 15) so the Parish Zones have been consolidated. You should be hearing from your Deacon this summer to introduce him/herself. Most of you will continue with the same one. Remember that we are here to share your joys and help with your concerns. If you have any questions about the Deacons, please contact Mary Good at 412-341-0291 or m.c.good@verizon.net



FLEA MARKET NEWS



This year's flea market will be held on Saturday, November 21. Collection will begin Monday July 6th. Please do not include clothes, books or large furniture. All items must be clean and in working condition. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday during office hours or Sunday after worship. If you are able, please take all items directly upstairs to the loft; otherwise leave items on the benches outside Fellowship Hall. Watch for more info on opportunities to help price (and get first crack at all merchandise) and get ready for the 2009 flea market. If you have any questions, please call Theresa Child at (412) 429-9519.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
- LAURIE'S CELEBRATION -
JULY 12TH



On July 12th after the worship service, we will be celebrating Laurie's service to Bower Hill and our community. Watch the web site and bulletin for more details.

Part of the celebration will be gifts of appreciation from the congregation. If you wish to contribute money, please send a check to the office indicating it is for Laurie's gift. We will be updating the scrapbook given to Leonard, completing it with remembrances pertaining to Laurie. Part of the scrapbook is a pocket for personal letters of appreciation to Laurie. Please send your letters to the office.

In addition, we are going to have a "Thanks, Laurie" section on the web site. It will include photos of Laurie and events at Bower Hill inspired by Laurie. We will also include letters of appreciation. These letters may be different than those in the scrapbook since the scrapbook letters may be more personal. Please send letters of appreciation to be posted on the web site to Glenn Child. If possible, please send in electronic format to gstchild@yahoo.com.

SHARE YOUR TALENT WITH US IN WORSHIP

There are still opportunities for you to share your music during the summer Worship services. If you are not involved in the Bower Hill ensembles because of various reasons, this is a great time to do something that doesn't take up much time.

Anything goes... vocalists (solo or group), instrumentalists (solo or group), classical or contemporary, you are welcome. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex where you can write your name on a specific Sunday for music. If you want to do something but are unsure of what you want to do, or have any questions, talk with Jessica.



WORSHIP PLANS

JULY 5 VBS SUNDAY

A celebration of our week with Crestfield Camp and Conference Center as we learned about our Call to Serve. Kate Fletcher from Hekima Place will be preaching

JULY 12

Jeremiah 29:11
The Rev. Laurie will be preaching.
"Future and Hope"

JULY 19

Psalm 23, John 10:1-18
The Rev. Dr. Grafton T. Eliason will be preaching.
"Shadows and Sunshine"

JULY 26

Youth Work Trip
The Service will be a celebration of the youth and leaders and will include a time of sharing the great youth mission adventure.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS IN JULY

Communion in July will be served by intinction.

GREETERS

July 5 Pete Fenton Norma Fenton Mary Good
July 12 Betty Winnett Bob Winnett Dottie Carter
July 19 Dave Green Nancy Green Nina Helbling
July 26 Nancy Criswell Lee Ferrero Phyllis Yohe

USHERS

Marian Brannan, Jim Corbett, Lucille Heckman,
Earl Kennedy, Bill Ramsey



FROM THE YOUTH DIRECTOR



I have thoroughly enjoyed my first few weeks with you at Bower Hill! I feel like I've shaken all of your hands, and hopefully I'll be able to remember all of your names sometime in the near future. Please keep an eye on the church calendar as a few youth events get planned for the remainder of the summer. I'm hoping we can all ease back into this youth ministry business together.

It seems most of the people that I go to seminary with are preparing to be head pastors someday. I tend to stick out in that crowd. Truly, I have no greater aspirations in the church than to be where I am right now. Being with youth energizes me and reinforces the call God has given to me to work in ministry.

All that is to say, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be a part of your ministry at Bower Hill Community Church! Please be praying that this part of your church would grow and be fulfilling in the ways that He desires. I am thrilled to see where we go from here.

~ Dan Getkin

A JOY!

Some concerns become amazing joys.

Many long-time members know my son Adam's history of kidney disease.

He now needs a 3rd transplant.

My sister and sister-in-law were not matches.

Betsy Hohlfelder volunteered to be tested and is a good match. UPMC put Betsy through the wringer with further testing and finally gave her the needed medical clearance. The transplant date will be July 7th. Please keep Betsy and Adam in your prayers.

I also want to publicly thank Kate Junker and Anne Noland who also volunteered to be tested and were willing to wait in the wings if needed.

BHCC has amazing members!

~ Mary Good

2009-2010 SESSION RESPONSIBILITIES



Clerk of Session
Bill Cadwell

Presbytery Representative
Bill Cadwell

Think Tank Coordinator
Glenn Child



Administration and Personnel

Elder Chair: Pat Jacobs

Elder Member: Glenn Child

Adult Education

Elder Chair: Dave Green

Elder Member: Susan Hicks

Building and Grounds

Elder Chair: Todd Westerhoff

Elder Member: Lynn Foltz

Christian Education/ Children's Ministry

Elder Chair: Susan Hicks

Elder Member: Mary Beth Waine

Evangelism and Membership

Elder Chair: Joan McAnulty

Elder Member: Jim McAnulty

Finance and Stewardship

Elder Chair: Kurt Kerner

Elder Member: Chan Ketchum

Mission and Outreach

Elder Chair: Alan Hohlfelder

Elder Member: Steve Boisvert

Worship and Music

Elder Chair: Phyllis Yohe

Elder Member: Lynne Wohleber

Youth Ministries

Elder Chair: D.J. Geis

Elder Member: Tim Lease

Nominating

Elder Chair: Tim Lease

Elder Member: Glenn Child

PNC UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to interview prospective candidates and listen to sermons on either CD or a website. We have interviewed six prospects by phone and eliminated three that either did not have enough experience or did not show a genuine interest in Bower Hill. Members of the committee have visited several churches to get a sense of how the candidate conducts a worship service. There are four more pastors with whom we have scheduled phone interviews. Once those calls have been completed (by June 17), another contact for further discussion will be made with all whom we feel would be successful pastors with the BH congregation.

The members of the group under consideration include men and women. They are all viable candidates, have good preaching skills, support mission projects, meet the theological parameters outlined in our Church Information Form, and profess to love the Lord.

This is a difficult task and the committee wants to be very careful in making the selection of the next pastor for Bower Hill Church. The committee continues to request your prayers and welcomes your questions or comments.



Members of the
Pastor Nominating Committee

are as follows:

Rick Jacobs, Chair

Theresa Child

Mary Good

Dave Hicks

Gordon Mitchell

Kiri Rising

Margaret Zabo

BHCC THINK TANK PROGRESS REPORT



As you may know, Cal formed a Think Tank of eight members consisting of four elders (Glenn Child, Dave Green, Alan Hohlfelder, Pat Jacobs) and four at-large members of the congregation (Lynn Foltz, Cynthia Gissin, Darena Lease, Dick Westerhoff). The charge to the group was to brainstorm and come up with ideas that would help us prepare for new leadership and keep Bower Hill moving forward.

Cal and the group came up with sixteen ideas that were presented at the session retreat on June 6th. Some of the ideas dealt with confirming our direction on existing initiatives such as Faith in Action and making them permanent programs. Other ideas dealt with revival of past programs such as Bible Study. A substantial number were concepts and programs new to Bower Hill.

At the retreat, these ideas were assigned to committees. Each committee will prioritize and determine what ideas to pursue for the short term. For most of the programs, there are short term tasks that either help determine if a program should be pursued or prepare for the longer term work of implementing a program. Our hope is that a substantial portion of the short term work will be completed so that session and the new pastor can review and modify the ideas as needed. As the committees prioritize and formulate their approaches to accomplishing the ideas, we will communicate more details on each idea. We expect, especially for the long term tasks, that the committees will be requesting help from members. As the request for help is communicated, please consider volunteering to help on those areas of interest to you. At the retreat meeting, Glenn Child was asked to act as a coordinator of the Think Tank. The role is to coordinate the work of the Think Tank with the work of the session committees and deacons. Glenn will be responsible for communicating to the congregation the status of the ideas being implemented.

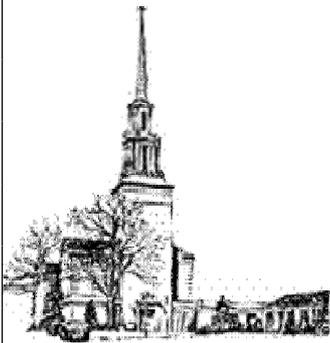


BOWER HILL NEWS

BOWER HILL COMMUNITY CHURCH
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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OUR CHURCH STAFF

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The Rev. Grafton Eliason, Company of Pastors

The Rev. John Yohe, Company of Pastors

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em@bhccml.com

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THE CHURCH OFFICE

[412] 561-4114

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.— 2:30 p.m.

CARE LIST

Margie and Rol Beatty, 1300 Bower Hill Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Matt Dunfee, 966 Worthington Woods Blvd, Worthington, OH, 43085

Kenn Fetterman, 2236 Kingridge Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Morris Standfest, 921 Old Hickory Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Peggy Craig, 714 Bower Hill Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Catheryn Deemer, Broadmore Assisted Living #205,
3275 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017

Harry Dunfee, 1648 Sillview Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Harry Retzer, 493 Castle Shannon Boulevard,
#520, Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Tooie Sharkey, Asbury Heights, 700 Bower Hill Rd,
#7338, Pittsburgh, PA 15243

Evelyn Mason, Health center at Friendship Village,
1290 Boyce Road, Upper St. Clair 15241

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